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Death and disability benefits

Note by the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The information contained in the annex to the present note is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decision 54/459 B, as well as the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions set forth in its report A/55/883.

2. In accordance with those recommendations, the present note summarizes the progress made in 2002 in processing death and disability claims (see annex, tables A and B). The total number of casualty notifications received and claims submitted under the new methodology for incidents occurring from 1 January 1997 to 31 December 2002 is presented in table C of the annex. Table D of the annex indicates the volume and value of claims processed during 2002.

3. As stated in the last annual report, dated 15 April 2002 (A/C.5/56/41), 78 claims were pending as at 31 December 2001. During 2002, 82 claims were received, bringing the total number of claims available for processing to 160. Of these 160 claims 126 were processed, with 34 pending as at 31 December 2002. Those 34 pending claims include 21 for which documentation from the troop contributor is lacking. All claims based on the old methodology have been processed.

II. Improved efficiency in the processing of death and disability claims

4. The Claims and Information Management Section of the Finance Management and Support Service continues to be organized into geographical teams, as described in an earlier report of the Secretary-General (A/56/939, para. 28). This arrangement has worked very well, as is evident from the 92 claims processed in 2002, compared with the 78 claims processed in 2001, resulting in a reduction in the number of claims pending at the end of 2002. Almost all claims are now processed within the 90-day timeline established by the General Assembly when complete information is provided by the Member State at the time of submission of the claim. In addition, training has been provided to Permanent Missions on the documentation required by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to process claims. This has improved the completeness of the documentation submitted by Member States and has shortened the time required for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to certify death and disability claims.

III. Conclusion

5. Reports on death and disability claims processing were initially required quarterly and were later condensed into an annual report, the primary intention being to keep track of the backlog of death and disability cases pending processing, particularly those cases that were processed under the old methodology. As stated in last year's note on this matter (A/C.5/56/41), there is no longer any backlog of claims. The new death and disability methodology is working well, as is well understood by all parties concerned, and the Claims and Information Management Section has been able to process claims in a timely manner. In the light of the foregoing, the General Assembly may wish to consider whether there is a continuing

need for such reporting to be provided outside of the framework of the overall claims processing.

IV. Action to be taken by the General Assembly

6. It is recommended that the General Assembly consider whether there is a continuing need for annual death and disability reporting to be provided outside of the framework of the overall claims processing.

Annex

Death and disability claims processed during 2002

A. Annual report for 2002 by country

Country	*Claims pending as at 1 January 2002*	*Claims received in 2002*	*Claims processed in 2002*[a]	*Claims pending as at 31 December 2002*
Austria	1	1	1	1
Bangladesh	1	7	7	1
Bolivia	–	3	3	–
Brazil	1	–	1	–
Denmark	2	–	2	–
Fiji	1	2	2	1
Finland	–	1	1	–
Ghana	1	1	2	–
Ireland	–	8	8	–
Jordan	46	2	27	21
Kenya	–	28	22	6
Namibia	1	–	–	1
Nepal	1	–	1	–
New Zealand	–	2	1	1
Nigeria	4	2	4	2
Pakistan	–	4	4	–
Philippines	–	1	1	–
Poland	4	10	14	–
Slovakia	–	1	1	–
Thailand	1	2	3	–
Ukraine	–	4	4	–
Uruguay	1	–	1	–
Zambia	13	3	16	–
Total	**78**	**82**	**126**	**34**

[a] The number of claims processed includes those that have been approved for payment and those that have been rejected.

B. Annual report for 2002 by mission

Mission	*Claims pending as at 1 January 2002*	*Claims received in 2002*	*Claims processed in 2002*[a]	*Claims pending as at 31 December 2002*
MONUA	1	–	–	1
MONUC	–	3	3	–
UNAMIR	1	–	1	–
UNAMSIL	32	47	52	27
UNAVEM	14	–	14	–
UNCRO	1	–	1	–
UNDOF	1	8	8	1
UNFICYP	1	–	1	–
UNIFIL	3	14	16	1
UNIKOM	1	1	1	1
UNMEE	–	1	1	–
UNMIK	–	1	1	–
UNPROFOR	1	–	1	–
UNTAET	22	7	26	3
Total	**78**	**82**	**126**	**34**

[a] The number of claims processed includes those that have been approved for payment and those that have been rejected.

C. Total number of casualties reported and claims submitted for incidents occurring from 1 January 1997 to 31 December 2002 under the new methodology[a]

Mission	*Fatalities*			*Injuries and illness*			*Total*		
	Casualty notifications received	*Claims received*	*Claims expected*[b]	*Casualty notifications received*	*Claims received*	*Claims expected*[c]	*Casualty notifications received*	*Claims received*	*Claims expected*
MINURCA	2	1	1	1	–	1	3	1	2
MINURSO	2	1	1	4	1	3	6	2	4
MONUA	9	7	2	26	1	25	35	8	27
MONUC	6	3	3	2	–	2	8	3	5
UNAMSIL	84	41	43	154	33	121	238	74	164
UNAVEM	4	1	3	24	–	24	28	1	27
UNDOF	3	2	1	3	9	–	6	11	1
UNFICYP	2	–	2	5	–	5	7	–	7
UNIFIL	31	25	6	249	15	234	280	40	240
UNIKOM	3	2	1	30	2	28	33	4	29
UNMEE	2	1	1	39	1	38	41	2	39
UNMIBH	1	–	1	4	–	4	5	–	5
UNMIK	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–
UNMISET	3	–	3	–	–	–	3	–	3
UNOMIG	4	–	4	–	–	–	4	–	4
UNPREDEP	3	3	–	5	–	5	8	3	5
UNPSG	–	–	–	1	–	1	1	–	1
UNSMIH	–	–	–	1	–	1	1	–	1
UNTAES	5	1	4	23	3	20	28	4	24
UNTAET	16	13	3	51	5	46	67	18	49
Total	**180**	**101**	**79**	**622**	**71**	**558**	**802**	**172**	**637**

[a] Only notifications of casualty received during the period are included. It should be noted that claims may be submitted for which no notification of casualty was submitted by the peacekeeping mission. Such claims would be certified using other substantiating documents originating from the peacekeeping mission.

[b] From past experience, it is possible to assume that death claims for all fatalities will be submitted.

[c] On the basis of past experience, permanent disability claims are received for only 20 per cent of the injuries and illnesses reported. On this basis, 112 claims may be reasonably expected out of the 558 notifications of casualty for which no claim has yet been submitted.

D. Volume and value of death and disability claims processed[a]

Annual report for 2002

(United States dollars)

Country	Total claims processed	Death claims		Disability claims	
		Number	Value[b]	Number	Value[b]
Austria	1	–	–	1	5 201
Bangladesh	7	7	340 000		–
Bolivia	3	2	100 000	1	6 000
Brazil	1	1	73 212	–	–
Denmark	2	–	–	2	65 534
Fiji	2	2	100 000	–	–
Finland	1	1	2 237	–	–
Ghana	2	2	100 000	–	–
Ireland	8	–	–	8	230 022
Jordan	27	–	–	27	217 000
Kenya	22	6	300 000	16	129 750
Nepal	1	–	–	1	12 500
New Zealand	1	–	–	1	10 500
Nigeria	4	3	150 000	1	28 500
Pakistan	4	2	100 000	2	73 000
Philippines	1	1	50 000	–	–
Poland	14	1	50 000	13	48 781
Slovakia	1	1	50 000	–	–
Thailand	3	3	150 000	–	–
Ukraine	4	4	200 000	–	–
Uruguay	1	–	–	1	12 500
Zambia	16	6	280 000	10	77 500
Total	**126**	**42**	**2 045 449**	**84**	**916 787**

[a] Processed claims cover all claims certified for payment as well as rejected claims.

[b] United States dollar amount for claims submitted in the local currency is as at the date of certification or rejection.